

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



**OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION**

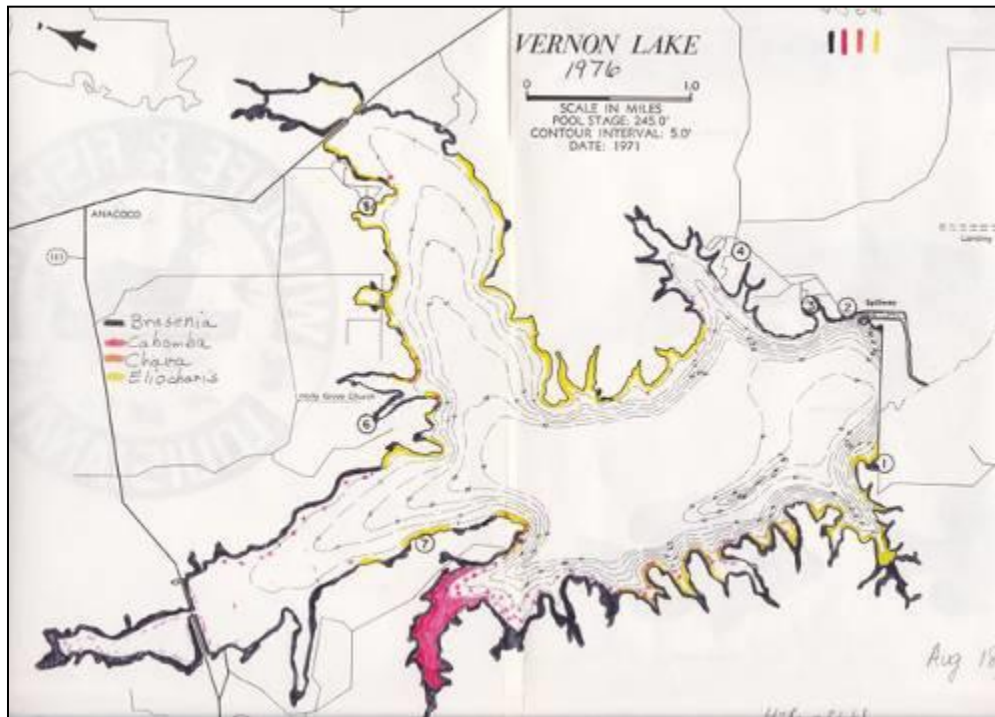
PART VI –C (ARCHIVES)

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

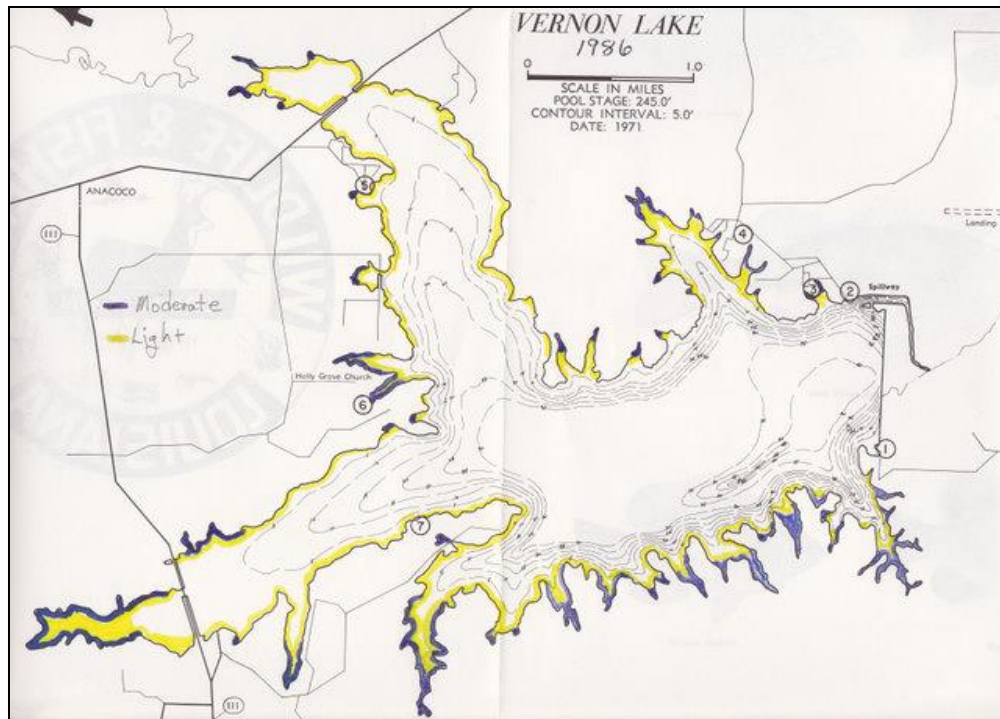
VERNON LAKE

**AQUATIC VEGETATION TYPE MAPS
AND NARRATIVES**

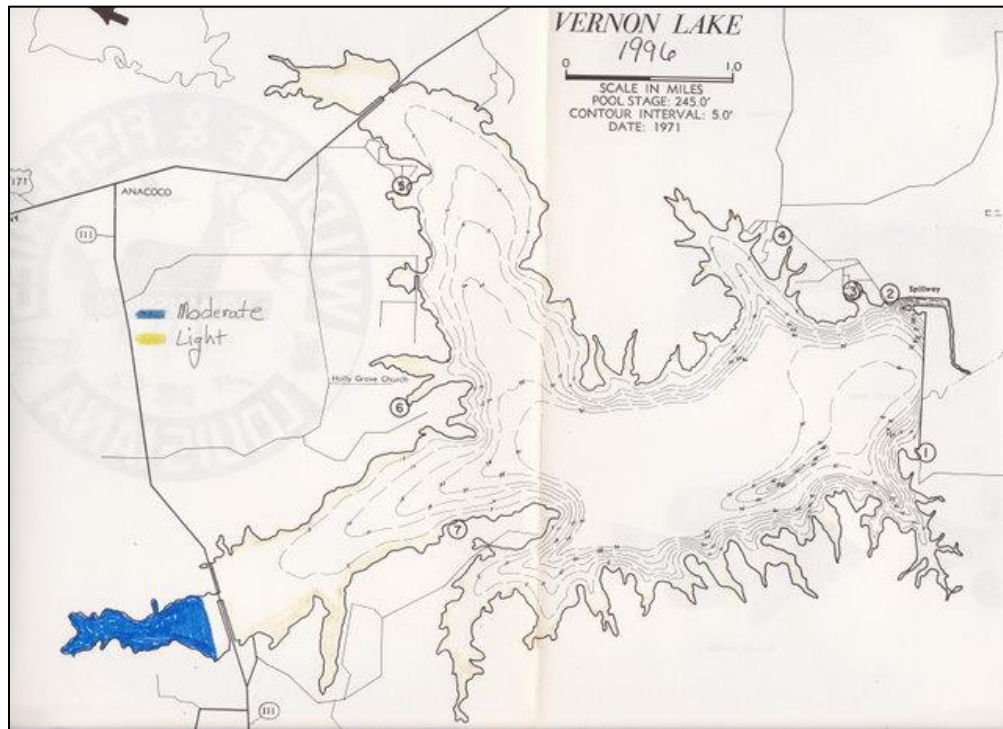
1976 TYPE MAP



1986 TYPE MAP



1996 TYPE MAP



VERNON LAKE AQUATIC VEGETATION TYPE MAP NARRATIVE

September 2006

Eric B. Shanks

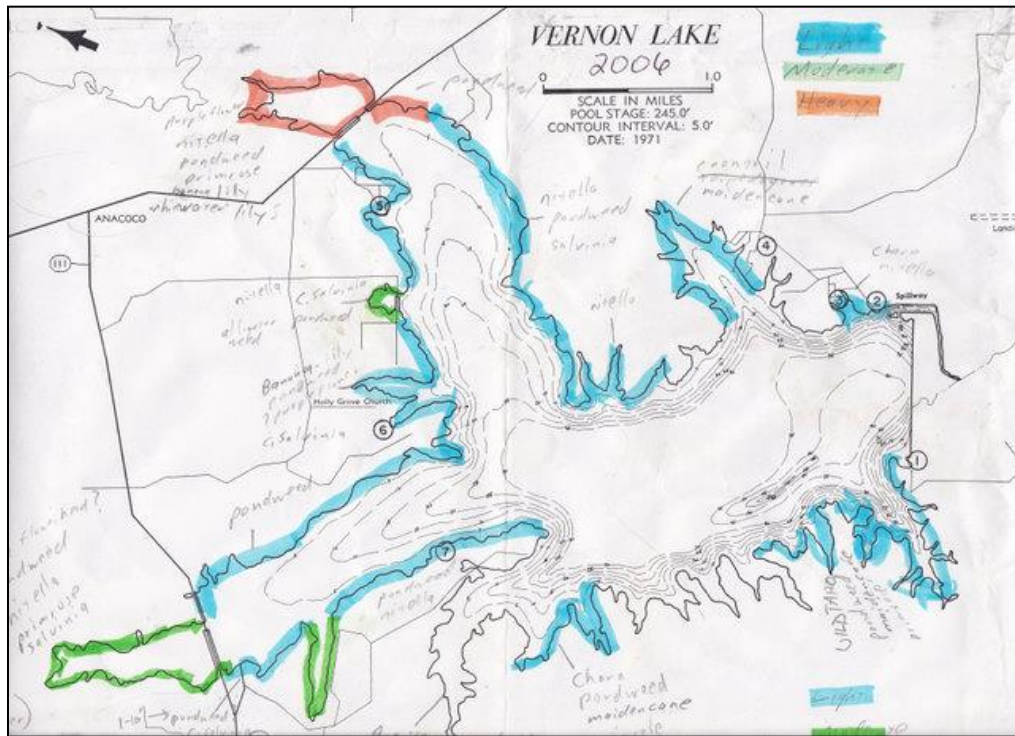
Vernon Lake, Vernon Parish was surveyed for the presence of aquatic vegetation on September 12, 2006. On the day of the survey the water clarity was very good with secchi readings of 90 cm. Water level in the lake was about one foot below pool or 244.0 MSL.

Moderate to heavy infestations of aquatic vegetation were located north of LA Hwy. 111 (seven bridges) and US Hwy. 171 (east bank) with primrose (*Ludwigia* spp.), alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), and common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) being the most common species along the shorelines and islands of these upper most coves.

Muskgrass (*Chara* spp.) was present in light to heavy amounts along the two to ten foot contours around most of the lake. Stonewort (*Nitella* spp.) was present in light to moderate amounts along the four foot contour of the lake, and light amounts of coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) was present in two coves on the east side of the lake. Banana lily (*Nymphoides aquatica*) was present in light to moderate amounts in most of the lake coves.

Other plants observed in trace to light amounts were maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), spikerush (*Eleocharis*), American lotus (*Nelumbo luteo*), water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), bagscale (*Sacciolepis striata*), elephant ear (*Taro* spp.), bulrush (*Scirpus validus*), and smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*).

2006 TYPE MAP



VERNON LAKE AQUATIC VEGETATION TYPE MAP NARRATIVE

October 2008

Eric B. Shanks

Vernon Lake, located in Vernon Parish was surveyed for the presence of aquatic vegetation on October 1, 2008 and October 6, 2008. On the survey days, water clarity was 51cm as measured by secchi disk. The lake level was about 18" below pool or 243.5 MSL.

One moderate to heavy infestation of alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), and primrose (*Ludwigia* spp.) was located above US Hwy. 171 (east bank) with light to moderate infestations of these plants also above LA Hwy. 111 (seven bridges).

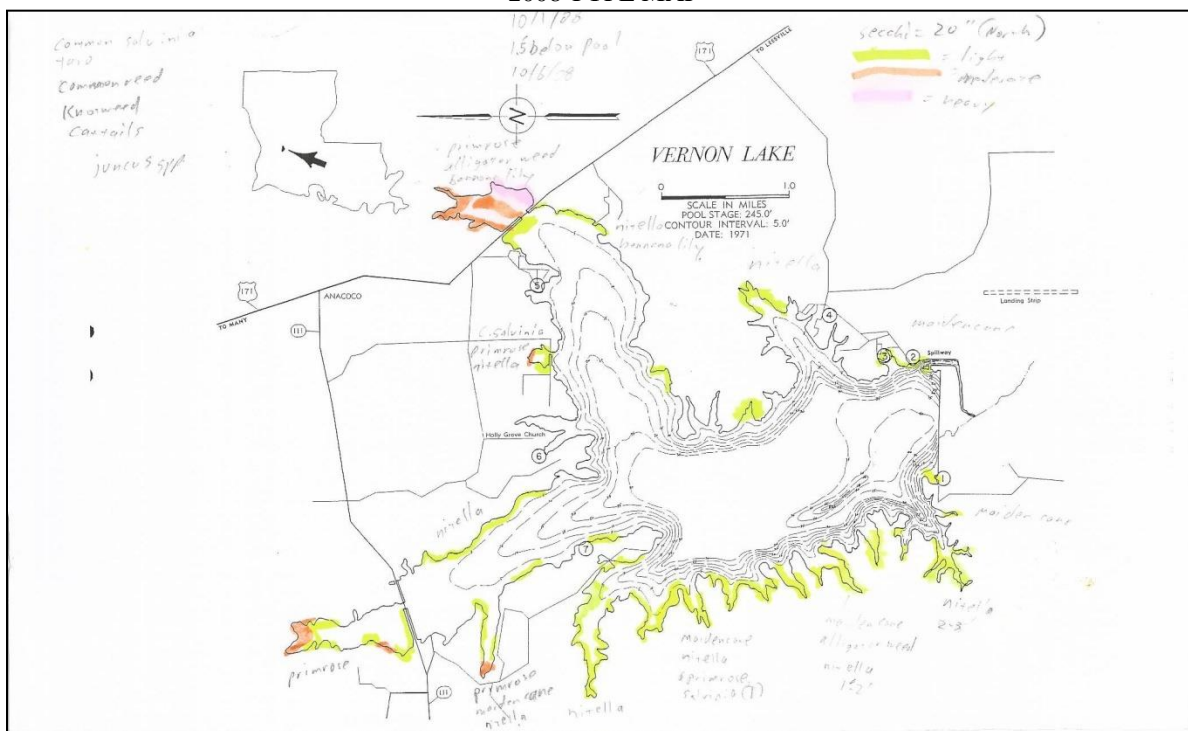
Stonewort (*Nitella* spp.) was present in light amounts along the much of the 2' to 4' contours of the lake. Banana lily (*Nymphoides aquatica*) was present in light amounts in only one cove.

Light amounts of maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) were present along the shoreline of the western half of the lake.

Other plants observed in trace amounts were spikerush (*Eleocharis* spp.), elephant ear (*Taro* spp.), black rush (*Juncus* spp.), cattails (*Typha* spp.), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and smartweed (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*).

Light amounts of common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) were observed in one cove, with isolated plants observed in other parts of the lake.

2008 TYPE MAP



VERNON LAKE September 2010 George Melancon

Vernon Lake, in Vernon Parish, was surveyed for the presence of aquatic vegetation on September 29, 2010. On the day of the survey water clarity was 120cm as measured by secchi disk. Water level observed at the time of the survey was approximately 244.40' MSL, which is 5 in. below the lake pool level of 245.00' MSL.

Areas of observed occurrence were designated as "Heavy", "Medium", or "Light". Most areas classified as "Heavy" were observed in the protected shallow-water areas located within coves and bays found along the lake. Predominant species associated with these areas were submerged stonewort (*Nitella spp.*) and floating banana lily (*Nymphoides aquatic*). Moderate amounts of these two species are found in several locations around the edge of the lake.

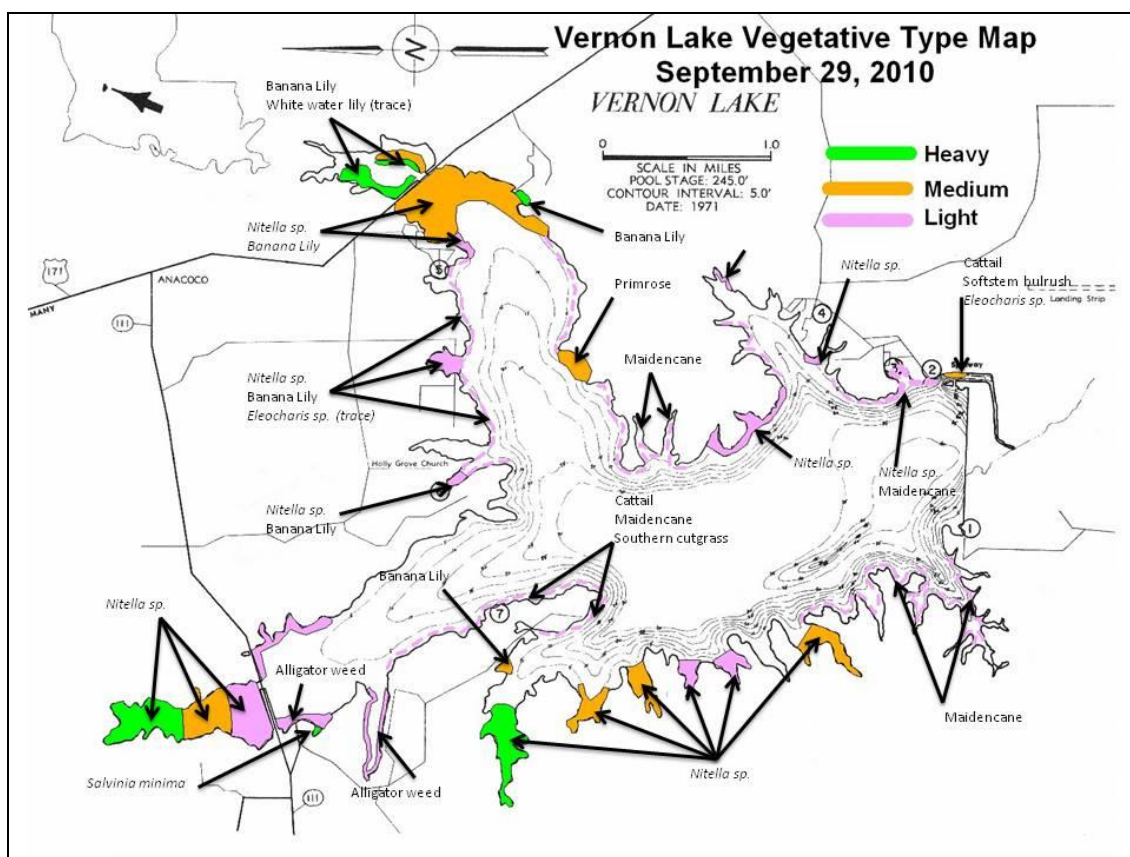
Light to moderate amounts of stonewort (*Nitella spp.*) were observed almost continually around the entire shoreline of the lake at the 2-4ft. contours.

Other species observed in light to moderate levels were white water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), cattail (*Typha sp.*), spikerush (*Eleocharis sp.*), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), Primrose (*Ludwigia spp.*), and southern cutgrass.

Common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) and alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) were found in medium to heavy amounts in only one small area near the Twin Bridges area along Hwy. 111.

Water quality has improved significantly from recent years. As a result of the improved water clarity, we found a significant increase in submerged aquatics. Stonewort, although not a preferred SAV for fisheries habitat, is providing a significant role in providing beneficial cover for juvenile fish species.

Common salvinia and alligatorweed levels are not negatively impacting the lake, but we will continue to monitor infestation levels.



VERNON LAKE
September 2011
George Melancon

Vernon Lake, in Vernon Parish, was surveyed for the presence of aquatic vegetation on September 14-15, 2011. On the day of the survey water clarity was 104cm as measured by secchi disk. Water level observed at the time of the survey was approximately 221.00' MSL, which is 24 in. below the lake pool level of 245.00' MSL.

Areas of observed occurrence were designated as "Heavy", "Medium", or "Light". Most areas classified as "Heavy" were observed in the protected shallow-water areas located within coves and bays found along the lake. Predominant species associated with these areas were submerged stonewort (*Nitella spp.*) and floating banana lily (*Nymphoides aquatic*). Moderate amounts of these two species are found in several locations around the edge of the lake.

Light to moderate amounts of stonewort (*Nitella spp.*) were observed almost continually around the entire shoreline of the lake at the 2-4ft. contours.

Other species observed in light to moderate levels were white water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), cattail (*Typha sp.*), spikerush (*Eleocharis sp.*), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), Primrose (*Ludwigia spp.*), and southern cutgrass.

Common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) and alligatorweed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) were found in medium to heavy amounts in only one small area near the Twin Bridges area along Hwy. 111.

Water quality has improved significantly from recent years. As a result of the improved water clarity, we found a significant increase in submerged aquatics. Stonewort, although not a preferred SAV for fisheries habitat, is providing a significant role in providing beneficial cover for juvenile fish species.

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